

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Schuylkill in Winter: Discover Life under the Water and Ice at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center

Philadelphia -- While humans shiver in cold weather, fish take a time-out to enjoy the cold water. Fish, too, are less active because of the low temperatures. Many species head for deep water, where you'll find them hanging out in hidden pools, away from the rush of currents.

Join the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center for winter workshops and learn more about how seasonal changes affect fish and other life in the river. Both parents and children will learn something new from our permanent, interactive exhibits and engaging educators. Workshops run from 2 to 4 p.m.

On Sunday, January 22, 2006, the workshop is "Fish in Winter." Learn more about how fish in the Schuylkill River react to the cold water. What foods, especially bottom-dwelling insect larvae, are on the fish's menu? In this special workshop, children will decorate their own cutout fish, create a model habitat for them and "feed" them with paper samples of food, cafeteria-style.

"Favorite Fish Foods" is the workshop on Sunday, January 29. Fish rely on insects and their larvae as a vital source of food. The larvae of many aquatic insects live on the bottom of rivers and streams and on rocks and in leaf packs. Using tweezers and magnifying lenses, workshop participants will examine samples of leaf packs from local streams to locate insect larvae.

Water changes in winter as well. The workshop on Sunday, February 12, will look at some of the changes in the physical properties of water as its temperature approaches and ultimately reaches the freezing point. Enjoy this hands-on chance to observe, in an informal laboratory setting, a number of these properties. At the end of the program, participants will make and take home their own crystals.

The Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center is located at 640 Water Works Drive, on the east bank of the Schuylkill River in Fairmount Park, below the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The Center is the region's premier ecotourism center and has been recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as the Delaware River Basin's Official Watershed Education Center.

The Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center is operated by the Philadelphia Water Department and is ADA accessible. .Admission to the Center and its workshops is free. All ages are welcome. The hours are Tuesdays - Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sundays: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays and City holidays. Programs are suitable for people of all ages and interests. No registration is required. For more information, call 215-685-0723.